

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a buddy list to a network user, the method comprising:

determining television programming selected for viewing by a network user;

accessing two or more user-defined lists of other users for whom presence is monitored, wherein each of the user-defined lists comprises one or more buddy groups defined by the network user, and each of the buddy groups comprises one or more members selected by the network user, ~~and each of the two or more user-defined lists comprises members selected by the network user,~~ the members comprising one or more of the other users;

selecting, based upon the determined television programming, an initial buddy list that includes two or more initial buddy groups from among the two or more user-defined lists ~~based upon the determined television programming;~~ and

displaying the selected two or more initial buddy groups to the network user by displaying the initial buddy list to the network user on an instant messaging user interface, wherein each of the displayed two or more initial buddy groups ~~buddy list~~ comprises online presence information for its ~~the members of the selected initial buddy list.~~

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein determining television programming comprises determining a television network.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein determining television programming comprises determining a television show.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein determining television programming comprises determining a characteristic of a television show.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein determining a characteristic comprises determining a type of the television show.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the type comprises sports.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein determining television programming comprises determining a sports team.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising receiving information indicating a change in the television programming viewed by the network user; selecting a different buddy list from among the two or more user-defined lists based upon the changed television programming; and displaying the selected different buddy list to the network user on an instant messaging user interface, wherein the displayed buddy list comprises online presence information for the members of the selected different buddy list.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the different buddy list differs from the initial buddy list.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein at least one member of the different buddy list differs from the members of the initial buddy list.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the members of the different buddy list differ from the members of the initial buddy list.

47. (Currently Amended) A computer program disposed on a computer readable medium for providing a buddy list to a network user, the computer program including instructions for causing a processor to:

determine television programming selected for viewing by a network user;  
access two or more user-defined lists of other users for whom presence is monitored, wherein each of the user-defined lists comprises one or more buddy groups defined by the network user, and each of the buddy groups comprises one or more members selected by the network user, ~~and each of the two or more user-defined lists comprises members selected by the network user,~~ the members comprising one or more of the other users;

select, based upon the determined television programming, an initial buddy list that includes two or more initial buddy groups from among the two or more user-defined lists ~~based upon the determined television programming;~~ and

display the two or more initial buddy groups to the network user by displaying the selected initial buddy list to the network user on an instant messaging user interface, wherein each of the displayed two or more initial buddy groups~~buddy list~~ comprises online presence information for ~~itsthe members of the selected initial buddy list.~~

48. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 47 wherein the instructions to determine television programming comprise instructions to determine a television network.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 47 wherein the instructions to determine television programming comprise instructions to determine a television show.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 47 wherein the instructions to determine television programming comprise instructions to determine a characteristic of a television show.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 50 wherein the instructions to determine a characteristic comprise instructions to determine a type of the television show.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 47 further comprising instructions to receive information indicating a change in the television programming viewed by the network user;

select a different buddy list from among the two or more user-defined lists based upon the changed television programming; and

display the selected different buddy list to the network user on an instant messaging user interface, wherein the displayed buddy list comprises online presence information for the members of the selected different buddy list.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 52 wherein the different buddy list differs from the initial buddy list.

54. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 52 wherein at least one member of the different buddy list differs from the members of the initial buddy list.

55. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 52 wherein the members of the different buddy list differ from the members of the initial buddy list.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising receiving user definition of a first buddy list and a second buddy list.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein selecting an initial buddy list comprises selecting an initial buddy list from among the first buddy list and the second buddy list.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising associating the first buddy list with first television programming and associating the second buddy list with second television programming.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58 wherein determining television programming comprises determining whether the first television programming or the second television programming is selected for viewing by the network user.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein selecting an initial buddy list comprises selecting the first buddy list if the first television programming is selected for viewing by the network user and selecting the second buddy list if the second television programming is selected for viewing by the network user.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein at least one member of the first buddy list differs from at least one member of the second buddy list.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 47 further comprising instructions for causing a processor to receive user definition of a first buddy list and a second buddy list.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 62 wherein the instructions for causing a processor to select an initial buddy list comprises instructions to select an initial buddy list from among the first buddy list and the second buddy list.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 63 further comprising instructions for causing a processor to associate the first buddy list with first television programming and to associate the second buddy list with second television programming.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 64 wherein instructions for causing a processor to determine television programming comprises instructions to determine whether the first television programming or the second television programming is selected for viewing by the network user.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 65 wherein instructions for causing a processor to select an initial buddy list comprises instructions to select the first buddy list if the first television programming is selected for viewing by the network user and to select the second buddy list if the second television programming is selected for viewing by the network user.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 62 wherein at least one member of the first buddy list differs from at least one member of the second buddy list.

68. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a buddy list to a network user, the method comprising:

receiving user definition of a first buddy list, the first buddy list including two or more first buddy groups defined by the network user, each of the two or more first buddy groups comprising one or more, ~~the first buddy list comprising~~ members selected by the network user, the members comprising one or more other users;

receiving user definition of a second buddy list, the second buddy list including two or more second buddy groups, each of the two or more second buddy groups comprising one or more, ~~the second buddy list comprising~~ members selected by the network user, the members comprising one or more other users, ~~wherein each of the first buddy list and the second buddy~~

~~list comprises one or more buddy groups defined by the network user and the members are grouped into the buddy groups by the network user;~~

determining television programming selected for viewing by the network user;

receiving user input;

triggering, based on the determined television programming~~received user input~~, selection of a buddy list among the first buddy list and the second buddy list, the buddy list including two or more buddy groups; and

displaying the two or more buddy groups to the network user by displaying the selected buddy list to the network user on an instant messaging user interface, wherein each of the displayed two or more buddy groups ~~buddy list~~ comprises online presence information for it~~the~~ members of the ~~selected buddy list~~.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 further comprising associating the first buddy list with first television programming and associating the second buddy list with second television programming.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein determining television programming comprises determining whether the first television programming or the second television programming is selected for viewing by the network user.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 71 wherein triggering selection of the~~the~~ buddy list comprises selecting the first buddy list if the first television programming is selected for viewing by the network user and selecting the second buddy list if the second television programming is selected for viewing by the network user.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein at least one member of the first buddy list differs from at least one member of the second buddy list.

74-83. (cancelled).

84. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a buddy list to a network user, the method comprising:

determining television programming selected for viewing by a network user;

accessing two or more lists of online identities for which online presence is monitored,  
~~the online identities being selected by the network user~~ each of the lists comprising one or more groups that each include one or more online identities selected by the network user;

selecting, based upon the determined television programming, a list from among the two or more lists, the list including two or more groups based upon the determined television programming; and

displaying the two or more groups to the network user by displaying the selected list to the network user on an instant messaging user interface, wherein each of the selected and displayed groupslist comprises online presence information for the online identities included within ~~it~~the selected and displayed list,

~~wherein each of the lists comprises one or more groups that each include one or more of the online identities selected by the network user.~~